

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1 of the specification, under the heading "Reference to Priority Application," please replace the paragraph with the following:

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/393,293 filed July 1, 2002 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/475,803 filed June 3, 2003. This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/995,897, filed Nov. 28, 2001, issued as U.S. Patent 6,875,176 on April 4, 2005, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/253,959, filed Nov. 28, 2000.

At the top of page 12, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

The methods and systems of the present invention provide important information about the health and condition of cardiac tissue, such as ventricular wall stiffness. By the law of LaPlace, wall stiffness is a function of ventricular chamber volume, ventricular wall thickness and the pressure in the ventricular chamber. If the heart muscle is contracting, then wall stiffness increases, if for no other reason than the ventricular chamber pressure increases. From these first principles a wide variety of useful information can be extracted from the measurement of myocardial tissue properties, such as wall stiffness, at various times throughout the cardiac cycle.